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SUMMARY OF FACULTY SENATE MEETING 01/24/05

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bankston called the meeting to order at 3:20 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2005 meeting by Senator Chancey; second by Senator Strauss. Motion passed.

CALL FOR PRESS IDENTIFICATION

Jim Stanton, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier was present.

COMMENTS FROM PROVOST PODOLEFSKY

Associate Provost Koch attended the meeting on behalf of Provost Podolefsky. She read an announcement from the UNI Cabinet stating that Board of Regent President John Forsyth, CEO of Wellmark and David Neil, a board member from La Porte City, stepped down late last week.

COMMENTS FROM FACULTY CHAIR, DAN POWER

Faculty Chair Power stated that he had not planned on attending the BOR meeting next week in Iowa City, as Faculty Senate Chair Bankston will be attending, but in light of the recent developments he may. He also noted that the campus conversation that came about from the survey last semester on what is good about UNI and what would make it better is planned for Friday, February 4.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR, BANKSTON

Chair Bankston had no comments.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR DOCKETING

870 Recommendation on Grade Changes

Motion to docket in regular order as item #780 for the February 14, 2005 meeting by Senator Chancey; second by Senator O'Kane.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. University Strategic Plan

Vice-President of Administration and Finance Tom Schellhardt reviewed the University of Northern Iowa's 2005-2005 Strategic Plan for the Senate.

2. Evaluation of Capstone Courses

Bev Kopper, Chair of the Liberal Arts Core Committee (LACC) updated the Senate on the committee's evaluation of the Capstone courses.

3. Faculty Senate Speaker Series

Senator Bankston remarked that when the survey was conducted last fall asking what would make UNI a better place to work, one of the items that was identified as a future Faculty Senate agenda item was the creation of a Faculty Senate Speaker Series. He has met with Provost Podolefsky along with Faculty Chair Power to discuss this and the Provost has made a commitment to the project.

Chair Bankston reported that he has edited the proposal on Dual Career Spousal Hires from the last meeting and it has been sent to the Provost who said he would like to pursue this issue by putting a committee together. Chair Bankston will be taking e-mail nominations.

In response to Senator Heston's question on finding the Senate a permanent meeting location, Chair Bankston responded that he has not yet received a recommendation from the Facilities Planning Committee.

Chair Bankston noted that letters of appreciation have been sent to past and current members of the Liberal Arts Core Committee.

Chair Bankston reported that Kim MacLin, Psychology, was elected to serve on the search committee for the Director of Academic Assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT FOR SENATOR'S REVIEW

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MEETING

01/24/05

1616

PRESENT: Ronnie Bankston, Karen Couch Breitback, Cliff Chancey, Cindy Herndon, Melissa Heston, Rob Hitlan, Susan Koch, Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure, Chris Ogbondah, Steve O'Kane, Phil Patton, Dan Power, Laura Strauss, Donna Vinton, Barbara Weeg, Mir Zaman

Tim Weih, Curriculum and Instruction, was attending for Denise Tallakson.

Absent: Otto MacLin, Aaron Podolefsky, Gayle Pohl, Dharendra Vajpeyi, Susan Wurtz

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bankston called the meeting to order at 3:20 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2005 meeting by Senator Chancey; second by Senator Strauss. Motion passed.

CALL FOR PRESS IDENTIFICATION

Jim Stanton, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier was present.

COMMENTS FROM PROVOST PODOLEFSKY

Associate Provost Koch attended the meeting on behalf of Provost Podolefsky. She read announcement from the UNI Cabinet regarding the Board of Regents.

"Two members of the Iowa Board of Regents have resigned. Board President John Forsyth, CEO of Wellmark and David Neil, a board member from La Porte City, stepped down late last week. Governor Tom Vilsak said Forsyth resigned after Attorney General Tom Miller said that Forsyth had a conflict of interest because of the tie between Wellmark and University Hospitals. The Attorney General has indicated that John Forsyth would be in a difficult position to carry out his responsibilities as President of the Board because he would be precluded from talking about any aspect of the hospital's arrangements, Vilsak said. Neil, whose term was to expire this year, said he resigned because of the loss of Forsyth. Michael Gardner will replace Neil on the Board of Regents, Vilsak said. The replacement for Forsyth could be announced by the end of the day."

Associate Provost Koch noted that Forsyth's replacement has not yet been named. She also noted that the next Board of Regents (BOR) meeting is Tuesday, February 2nd.

COMMENTS FROM FACUTY CHAIR, DAN POWER

Faculty Chair Power stated that he had not planned on attending the BOR meeting next week in Iowa City as Faculty Senate Chair Bankston will be attending, but in light of the recent developments he may plan on attending.

He also noted that the campus conversation that came about from the survey last semester on what is good about UNI and what would make it better is planned for Friday, February 4, and information should be coming out about it. There will be a planning meeting tomorrow, January 25 he will be unable to attend due to his teaching schedule. Syed Kirmani and Faculty Senate Chair Bankston are both on the committee and he would like to have three faculty members attending. He will try to find a substitute to go in his place.

COMMENTS FROM CHAIR BANKSTON

Chair Bankston had no comments.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR ITEMS FOR DOCKETING

870 Recommendation on Grade Changes

Motion to docket in regular order as item #780 for the February 14, 2005 meeting by Senator Chancey; second by Senator O'Kane.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. University Strategic Plan

Vice-President of Administration and Finance Tom Schellhardt was present to review the University of Northern Iowa's 2004-2009 Strategic Plan.

He noted that the Strategic Plan Review Committee was formed in early 2003 by President Koob due to the budget concerns that had taken place. The advisory council to President Koob thought it would be good to have a review committee look at the 2001-2006 Strategic Plan. In late 2003 the BOR asked that all five regents institutions review and update their strategic plans for the 2004-2009 period. The committee benefited from previous plans, 2001-2006 and 1996-2001. He commended the previous committees

for the excellent work they did that provided the groundwork for the current plan. There was excellent representation on the committee with all classifications of personnel being represented as well as students.

The committee examined factors that impacted UNI, such as enrollment declines, tuition increases and budget reductions. The committee did not make many changes in the plan but did reduce the seven original goals to five, as there was some duplication in the 2001-2006 plan.

Vice-President Schellhardt reviewed the Strategic Plan for the Senate. He noted that the first goal, "Provide intellectually challenging and character-building experiences for undergraduate and graduate students in a personalized learning environment," emphasizes instruction and relates more to students.

The second goal, "Maintain a faculty distinguished by their creative and intellectually rigorous teaching and scholarship," relates more to the faculty and our need to provide resources for scholarship.

The third goal, "Focus the involvement of the University in addressing critical local, state, national and global needs," deals with service as what we can do for the greater good of the region, state, nation and international community.

"Promote a University culture characterized by diversity, collegiality, mutual respect, organizational effectiveness, and shared responsibility" is the fourth goal. Vice-President Schellhardt remarked that this goal centers on collegiality, diversity, and principals of community.

Goal five, "Provide and maintain appropriate resources including staffing for effective and efficient University Operations", deals with university operations and resources needed to make sure all can effectively do their jobs.

He also said that the BOR had asked all the Regents institutions to submit a plan to them by January 2nd so that all their strategic plans could be reviewed in February and discussed at the February BOR meeting. That has been postponed to the March BOR meeting.

The committee also worked diligently to come up with performance indicators that would relate to many of the goals and objectives within those goals. The BOR has asked them to delay the submission of the performance indicators. They have submitted a list of performance indicators that would go forth to the BOR and internal performance indicators to the Cabinet that they do not want to go forth as part of the BOR plan.

Vice-President Schellhardt stated that the Cabinet reviewed and approved the Strategic Plan on December 20, 2004, and recommended

that it go forward to the BOR. He thanked the faculty and staff for their input during the past two years and noted that the committee was guided by the comments that were received.

Faculty Chair Power commended Vice-President Schellhardt and the committee for their efforts in producing a short, straightforward document. He thanked the Vice-President for sharing the document with the Faculty Senate.

Senator Chancey asked if the public performance indicators would be made available. Vice-President Schellhardt responded that they would be made public once they have been approved by the BOR.

Chair Bankston asked what the major differences are between this plan and previous plans. Vice-President Schellhardt replied that the committee tried to tighten up the goals and make sure that those relating to like areas were included in one goal. He also noted that the Vision and Value Statements were modified briefly.

Faculty Chair Power commented that he liked Goal Five, specifically Objective 5.1 "Implement budget processes linking allocations to the strategic plan." It is something that he has been concerned about and unless connected to the budget, this kind of document doesn't mean anything. Vice-President Schellhardt noted that from the very first meeting, the committee talked about how they would link goals and objectives with the budget.

2. Evaluation of Capstone Courses

Bev Kopper, Chair of the Liberal Arts Core Committee (LACC) was present to update the Senate on the evaluation of Capstone courses. She stated that once the review of new Capstone proposals had been completed, the LACC focused on issues related to the evaluation of the new model. Once the new model was adopted in April 2004 there was discussion of concerns related to that. She went back and reviewed the minutes of the April 12, 2004 Faculty Senate meeting and is here today to discuss some of those issues and concerns that were raised, how the LACC has addressed those issues and concerns, and share with the Senate the student and faculty survey that has been developed for Capstone courses.

One of the questions that was raised about the new model was whether it would disrupt the number of available sections. She reported that as of this spring, there has been an increase in the number of Capstone sections being offered, and a reduction in class size. This is very positive in terms of meeting one of the goals. She has scheduled a meeting with the Deans involved in the offerings, the Capstone Coordinator and Associate Registrar to do planning for fall so they can look ahead and be planful about sections and ensure that this trend continues.

Another question that was raised dealt with the ratio of tenure/tenure-track faculty involved in the new Capstone offerings. Dr. Kopper reported that 100% of the new Capstone courses are being offered by faculty that are tenure/tenure-track.

Another issue that was raised concerned the number of proposals, would there be any new proposals submitted. They are currently offering 14 new sections, with 16 new courses being approved by the LACC. One course was rejected and one course is currently under review.

Dr. Kopper also noted that a question had been raised regarding what criteria would be used for the review. The LACC has invited the instructors proposing new Capstone courses to the LACC meeting when their proposals are discussed. This has been extremely valuable for both the LACC to really understand the course and to address questions that faculty have brought forward that help in refining the syllabus and their proposal.

Another issue that was raised, Dr. Kopper noted, was the issue of student diversification, and would there be courses that would only attract students from one major. The Committee has examined the enrollment data and found that there is a diverse mix of majors in the different courses.

Dr. Kopper distributed copies of both the student and faculty surveys that the LACC used for a pilot study last fall. The Committee felt that it was important to get feedback from students and faculty about their experiences with Capstone, both Environment, Technology and Society (ETS) and the new Capstone offerings. They asked for volunteers from the ETS and new Capstone offerings. While the student survey was being administered the instructor filled out the faculty survey. They would like to administer the survey again this semester to both the ETS and new Capstone offerings to get additional feedback from both faculty and students.

Senator Herndon asked if the new approved Capstone courses would be coming through the regular curriculum process. Dr. Kopper replied that the new courses are being offered as experimental courses (010:159). These courses may very well be offered more than the three semesters that experimental courses are allowed. Associate Provost Koch will be bringing this issue to the university's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee when they meet in February. They will in turn bring forth any proposals regarding extensions to the Faculty Senate as the model was only approved as a three-year model.

Chair Bankston asked if, due to the interdisciplinary nature of some of the courses, the LACC has faced challenges in terms of departments claiming ownership. Dr. Kopper responded that there has been only one situation of a course that has not yet gone

through the review process. The usual review process involves inviting all parties involved to a LACC meeting to discuss the proposal and resolve the issues. When they have done this the parties have been able to come to an agreement.

Senator Zaman asked if there were any preliminary results from the course surveys, specifically if the students found the course intellectually challenging. Dr. Kopper cautioned that the survey last semester was conducted with a very small sample of Capstone courses, and was directed more at refining the survey instrument. She did note that students tended to agree that the course was intellectually challenging, and there was some indication that they found that the new courses more challenging than the ETS courses. The LACC hopes to survey all the Capstone sections this semester to gain additional feedback.

Senator Heston asked if there is any recourse with experimental courses, can any department object to any other department's experimental offerings? And perhaps this something the Senate should think about in the future.

3. Faculty Senate Speaker Series

Senator Bankston remarked that when the survey was conducted last fall asking what would make UNI a better place to work, one of the items that was identified as a future Faculty Senate agenda item was the creation of a Faculty Senate Speaker Series. He has met with Provost Podolefsky along with Faculty Chair Power to discuss this. The Provost has made a commitment to this project.

Faculty Chair Power laid out some of the boundaries that the Provost had proposed, noting that there are some funds that should carryover to the next fiscal year's budget and would be available for this project. Depending on the needs of the Senate and the plan that is put forward, it could be approximately \$20,000. He cautioned that the Senate should not spend money for a speaker series just to be spending money; the Senate needs to form a committee that can report back with a proposal. Senator's Herndon and Vinton, and Vice-Chair O'Kane volunteered to serve on this committee. Chair Bankston asked that they report back to the Senate with a proposal on how they envision a speaker series working by April.

Chair Bankston reported that he has edited the proposal on Dual Career Spousal Hires from the last meeting and has sent it on to the Provost. The Provost responded that he wants to pursue this issue by putting a committee together. The Provost believes the committee should consist of people with human resources expertise, expertise in university policy and practice, expertise in state laws and such, and faculty representation. After a discussion it was decided that Chair Bankston would take e-mail

nominations and if he receives more names than needed he will bring it to the Senate for a vote.

Senator Heston asked if there has been any follow-up in finding the Senate a permanent meeting location. Chair Bankston responded that he has not yet received a recommendation from the Facilities Planning Committee.

Chair Bankston noted that he has finalized the letters of appreciation that will be sent to past and current members of the Liberal Arts Core Committee and they should be received this week.

Chair Bankston reported that Kim MacLin, Psychology, was elected to serve on the search committee for the Director of Academic Assessment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Senator Herndon; second by Senator Heston.
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena Snowden
Faculty Senate Secretary